



NDE Early Childhood 101

*Bringing Together Title I, Head Start,
and other partners*



What is an Early Childhood Program?



- Federal Title I - For the purposes of Title I, children from birth to the age that the LEA provides a free public elementary education may receive preschool services



Early Childhood Education State Statute

- Rule 11, §79-1101(3)(b)
“...any prekindergarten part-day or full-day program or in-home family support program with a stated purpose of promoting social, emotional, intellectual, language, physical, and aesthetic development and learning for children from birth to kindergarten entrance age and family development and support.”





Rules and Regulations

State

- Rule 11
- Rule 51
- Rule 10

Federal

- Title I, Part A
- McKinney-Vento
- Head Start Performance Standards
- IDEA



Resources & Funding

- Title I funds may be used in the operation of a preschool or any early childhood program
- An LEA may reserve an amount from LEA's total allocation to operate a Title I preschool program for eligible children in the district as a whole or for a portion of the district.
- Funds from various sources may be blended in the development and operation of an early childhood program or service



Resources & Funding

- An LEA that uses Title I funds to provide early childhood development services to low-income children below the compulsory school attendance age *must* ensure services comply at a minimum with achievement standards established under Section 641A(a) of Head Start Act. [*§1112(c)(1)(G), ESEA.*] *Such as:*
 - Purposeful learning activities and play
 - A balanced schedule and coherent curriculum
 - Aligned content standards & ongoing assessment
 - Parent informed program planning



Title I and Even Start

- A district may choose an Even Start family literacy as their early childhood program model which includes early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education and parenting education into a unified family literacy program [*§1231, ESEA.*]
- *Note: Although specific Even Start (Title I, Part B) funds are no longer available, LEA's may still choose this model.*



Staff Qualifications for Early Childhood

- *Program Coordinator* - certificated teacher with at least 9 college credit hours in EC
- *Teachers* -Bachelors' degree with one of the early childhood endorsements
- *Para educators*- 12 early childhood credits or equivalency (i.e., Project Para = 3 hrs.)
- Title I funding of staff must meet the criteria in Rule 11



Reporting Systems

State & Federal

- Nebraska Staff & Student Record System
- Consolidated Data Collection
- **Results Matter** Online Child and Program Environment Assessment System
- Annual Program Report/Approval
- Child Care Licensing (LIS)
- USDA – Child and Adult Food Program
- Federal Head Start/Early Head Start



Title I Monitoring Process

- Title I Monitoring Checklist
- Title I ESEA Application
- Title I Schoolwide Plan
- Annual Self-Review of Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Programs
- McKinney-Vento Requirements



Other Considerations

- Eligibility for Title I preschool “targeted”
 - children in foster care
 - experiencing homelessness
 - neglected or delinquent
 - verified with a disability or developmental delay
- Eligibility for title I “schoolwide”
 - All children in attendance area are eligible for preschool services



Other Considerations

- Head Start must reserve 10% of federal funded enrollment, “by grantee” to serve children with a disability or developmental delay
- Head Start Income eligibility - Household Income verification is required for enrollment
- Head Start staff must be cleared through child abuse registry/background checks of staff
- Transportation needs and regulations



Important Links

- <http://www.ed.gov>
 - “Serving Preschool...Under Title I”
 - http://find.ed.gov/search?q=Serving+Preschool+Children+Under+Title+I&client=default_frontend&output=xml_no_dtd&proxystylesheet=default_frontend&sa.x=56&sa.y=12
- <http://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/Title%20X.html>
 - Homeless Education
- <http://www.education.ne.gov/oe/index.html>
 - NDE Office of Early Childhood
- <http://www.education.ne.gov/oe/c/hssco.html>
 - NE Head Start-State Collaboration Office
- <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>
 - US DHHS - Head Start (search, Head Start Performance Standards, staff qualifications, etc.)
- http://www.education.ne.gov/oe/c/pdfs/para_eq.pdf
 - Para educator link



Contact Information

- Federal Programs - Staff
 - http://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/Contact_Us.html
- Office of Early Childhood – Staff
 - <http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/staff.html>
- Head Start-State Collaboration Office
 - Eleanor Kirkland @ eleanor.kirkland@nebraska.gov
 - Diane Kvasnicka @ diane.kvasnicka@nebraska.gov
- McKinney-Vento
 - Roger Reikofski @ roger.reikofski@nebraska.gov



Questions

- Please contact us if specific questions



- Thank you for your participation!